

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed October 19, 2004. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hansen, et al. ("Hansen," U.S. Pat. No. 6,442,144). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

It is axiomatic that "[a]nticipation requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each element of the claim under consideration." *W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 1554, 220 USPQ 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Therefore, every claimed feature of the claimed invention must be represented in the applied reference to constitute a proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In the present case, not every feature of the claimed invention is represented in the Hansen reference. Applicant discusses Applicant's claims and the Hansen reference in the following.

Hansen discloses a method and apparatus for discovering network devices. As is described by Hansen, such devices include repeaters, switch/bridges, routers, network servers, workstations, and printers. Hansen, column 3, lines 52-61. What Hansen does not disclose, however, is a method or system for identifying devices that are connected to those discovered devices. Therefore, to cite an example, if Hansen's apparatus discovers a workstation on a given network, the apparatus cannot further identify devices that are connected to that workstation.

From the above, it can be appreciated that the Hansen disclosure suffers from the same deficiency as the Gleichauf reference that was previously cited against Applicant's claims. Specifically, although Hansen discloses apparatus for discovering hosts on a network (e.g., servers, workstations, etc.), Hansen fails to disclose identifying devices that are *connected to* those discovered hosts. Therefore, the Hansen system does not provide that administrator with information as to *the devices that are connected to the host*.

Applicant has amended each independent claim to describe scanning of a network host to identify "peripheral" devices that are "directly connected" to the host. Applicant asserts that these amendments clearly distinguish Applicant's claimed inventions over those of the prior art, including those of Gleichauf and Hansen. Applicant notes that although the term "peripheral" does not explicitly appear in Applicant's specification, a person having ordinary skill in the art would readily appreciate from Applicant's written description and figures that the devices (206) connected to the hosts (204) include peripheral devices.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant requests that the rejection under Hansen be withdrawn.

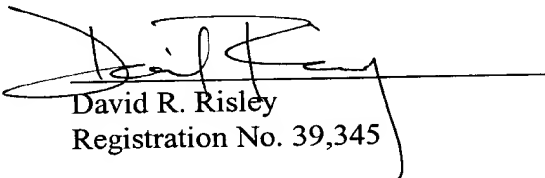
II. New Claims

As identified above, claims 35-38 have been added into the application through this Response. Applicant respectfully submits that these new claims describe an invention novel and unobvious in view of the prior art of record and, therefore, respectfully requests that these claims be held to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

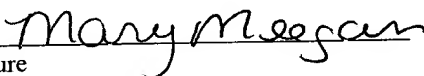
Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,


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1-5-05


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